

# MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2015

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno, Nevada 89512  
Game Room

**1. CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. – by the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Larry Weiss.

**2. ROLL CALL** - Dr. Larry Weiss asked for roll call; Lisa Bonilla took the roll. There was a quorum present.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>		<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Dr. Larry Weiss	Donna Clontz	* Gary Whitfield
Clinton Smith	Jeanne Herman	* Karen Davis
Connie McMullen	Marsy Kupfersmith	
Dennis Chin	Wayne Alexander	
Diane France	Victoria Edmondson	

\*Excused absence

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Grady Tarbutton  
Lisa Bonilla

**3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT** – Dennis Chin commented on the service he received from the Blood Pressure Clinic held regularly at the Reno Washoe County Senior Services Center and how much he enjoyed the experience, commenting the nurse was friendly and genuinely concerned for the welfare of her clients. He also brought up an incident with an elderly couple who came into the Washoe County Senior Services Center of 9<sup>th</sup> street to get assistance with a Medicare bill. The SHIP volunteer did not show up and the couple sat for hours waiting for someone from SHIP to assist them until a social worker came to assist them, thus making the SHIP volunteer for the day non-reliable. There was also a considerable language barrier with the couple which made communicating difficult. Grady informed everyone there is a recommendation in place that once the three social services departments are merged into Human Services Agency, to have a contract with the ATT Language Line or a similar service. Grady explain the SHIP program through Access to Healthcare Network and its role in Senior Services. Dennis also commented on the Library and how two staff members organized the DVD section of the library and supplied the Senior Center library with a copy of a catalog of DVD’s that can be reserved.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE March 4, 2015 ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA** – Correction by Victoria Edmondson noted that Commissioner Jeanne Herman represents

District 5 not District 3. Dennis Chin motions the approval of the changes to the agenda. Donna Clontz seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE February 4, 2015, ADVISORY BOARD MEETING-**

Wayne Alexander motions the approval of the minutes as presented. Dennis Chin seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. \*Presentation by the Senior Law Project of NLS – Karen Zavora** –Karen, one of the new directing attorneys of the Senior Law Project (SLP) of Nevada Legal Services, presented an overview of what the Senior Law Project is, funding received for the Senior Law Project (federal funding, ADSD grant and Washoe County) and the services they provide. Previously there were no restrictions on the services SLP provided to seniors, but starting in July 2015, Aging & Disability Services Division (ADSD) will begin to implement service specifications on their grant, including the type of cases they are allowed to take on. Some of these services include nursing home discharge cases, elder abuse, subsidized housing, landlord/tenant issues, and consumer issues. Some of the services that are to be taken away include wills and power of attorney cases (no more than 10% of their fund may be used for this services with 22% of cases fall within that category), although they are in the process of searching for pro-bono attorneys who are willing to take the cases as well as additional funding through the county in order to keep the programs. In 2014, SLP had 636 opened cases, some continuing into 2015. Of those, 220 were coded as wills or power of attorney. The Senior Law Project of NLS is also searching for more outreach opportunities outside of the congregate meal sites which they currently have scheduled throughout the year. The SLP also offers workshops at different locations and would be willing to do special workshops during Older Americans Month.

**7. \*Presentation of Budget – Leslie Williams** – Due to the absence of Leslie Williams, Grady presented the budget update. Grady provided a general update of the budget as well as a breakdown of service goals. Washoe County Senior Services purchased a new Home Delivered Meals truck in 2015 so the ending fund balance will be down by \$38,000 more than expected but will still be around \$200,000 which is within the guidelines the County requires. Board members were also provided with the County Manager/BCC's budget calendar deadlines. For the current year, the Department will focus on 4 of the 12 goals identified by the Master Plan. For the nutrition program the goal is to increase Congregate and "Meals on Wheels" from 335,000 (2015, projected) to 365,000 in 2016: Home and Community-Based Services to support a nurse and a community health aide; information and referral part time staff to become full-time; and the Volunteer Senior Ambassador Program to reach isolated seniors. WCSS will request an increase in the budget from the indigent fund of about \$800,000 for additional meals and in-home services. There will also be an above base request of general funds to increase from \$500,000 a year to an additional \$300,000, which will be primarily for eligibility and staff support for social workers. . This year started with 9 meal sites, by July 1<sup>st</sup> there will be 11 and by next year an additional two. The presentation to the County Manager will be March 12; the BCC will receive the budget report from the Manager's office March 24<sup>th</sup> and make final decisions on

the FY 2016 County Budget and 2016-2018 Strategic Plan by May 18<sup>th</sup>. By June 2, the adopted budget is due to Department of Taxation.

**8. \*City of Reno Staff Report** – Due to the absence of Darryl Feemster, Donna Clontz provided the City of Reno update. The Senior Games finished with 289 participants, which almost doubles last year’s participants, and over 450 seniors attended the Valentine’s Day Dance. The City of Reno is also organizing events and workshops for Older Americans Month at their City of Reno locations as well as City Hall and other locations. Closing Ceremonies will take place Saturday, May 30, at the Neil Road Recreation Center, which will include food, prizes and activities. The Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be taking place the following Tuesday, the meeting primarily consisting finishing the strategic plan. The three areas highlighted for discussion includes transportation, information and outreach, and volunteers.

**9. Discussion on the recruitment process for the Associate Members and their roles, and including a discussion on advertising, “meet and greet” events and promotion in the City of Reno and Washoe County Senior Services newsletter.** Donna discussed the need for a description of what the Associate Member’s role and responsibilities are in order to put that information out into the community to solicit interested parties. The role of the Associate Member must be defined in terms of the by-laws. Grady’s proposal is to look at the individual districts and identify addition people in each district to be involved in the process, which would include volunteering, outreach, advocacy, and identifying communities and their needs. This idea would also extend to other agencies that can support senior activities and resources in the community that would create a partnership with the county. Larry suggests having a proposal and definition of the Associate Member by the next meeting to have gone before the Executive Committee.

**10. \*Directors Updates** – Grady Tarbutton

- a. Older Americans Month update** - Len Reidenbaugh provided the update for Older Americans Month. Len gave an overview of this year’s theme (Get into the Act) and the primary focus of the events related to OAM. The opening ceremonies will take place Friday, May 1, at 9:00am in the Washoe County Senior Center in Reno. There has been an increase in the number of vendors that are able to participate in the information fair. There will be a special menu for the lunch as well as live entertainment. The focus topics for this year’s events are transportation, volunteering, community resources, veteran’s issues, recreation and social activities, health and nutrition, and senior safety. Lisa Bonilla will be in charge of doing the program and booklets so any information needed to go into the either need to be handed in to Lisa by March 24 in order to finalize and submit for printing.
- b. Master Plan update**— The Master Plan has been utilized to develop Senior Services 2016 Business Plan budget proposal. This includes additional positions for social services, Aging and Disability Resource Center, and Daybreak.
- c. Human Services Agency update** –Update deferred for next meeting

- d. Primer (briefing) for the Board prior to the Legislative session** – Donna recounted the training session seniors were invited to at the end of January to learn about how to become community advocates. Fifty seniors showed up for the training and were invited to also go to the Day at the Legislature, to which 40 of those seniors and others attended. There were presentations about 4 major issues; budget of ADSD services, Affordable Care Act and caregiver support, elder abuse and guardianship issues, and provider rates for home and community-based services. Donna reminded the Board March 6, 2015, Aging and Disability Services Division will be having a budget presentation at the Legislature and is encouraging people to get involved. Eight different budgets will be presented 4 of which are seniors related.
- e. Update on Senior Service program waitlists (standing item)** – Grady went over the wait list update from December’s meeting. Once there is a new update available from Social Services, it will be distributed to the board.
- f. ADRC Date Base update (standing item)** – deferred to next meeting
- g. ADSD Grant update**— Grady provided a brief summary of the grant programs. All county programs are meeting or exceeding set goals.

**11. \*Member Items** – Grady gave an overview of the “A Conversation... Aging in Washoe County” video, which was aired February 13, 2015, which discussed how the County is managing the growing senior population and the different programs provided. Grady announced the prosecution of a man who exploited an elderly woman out of more than \$300,000 and received the maximum sentence. In response, there was a conversation between the Sheriff’s and DA’s office among other agencies to work on getting a grant together that would address elder abuse, and it will go forward. Grady also mentioned the need to protect the Federal-State-Local partnership for Medicaid, for any shift in the coverage from the federal government would result in the cost for medical and health funding to increase for the state and county. Dennis would like more newsletters sent to the Sparks Library. Victoria announced she still has two puppies left that are up for adoption. Marsy announced the Friends of Washoe County Library are having a book sale March 14-22 at Reno Old Town Mall from 10am-5pm.

**12. Discussion of agenda items for the next Board meeting** – Donna would like to have a description of the Associate Member’s position and responsibilities, as well as continue the discussion regarding the legislature. Dr. Larry Weiss suggested another OAM update and continue legislative discussion. Donna requested a discussion on more ideas about programming topics for video and media. Dennis would like to discuss the need for more Medicaid and Medicare accepting PCP’s and providers. Senior demographics were requested to be available for the next meeting. Marsy wants a representative from RTC to do a presentation.

**13. \*Public Comment** – No public comments made.

**14. Adjournment** – Dennis Chin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Diane France seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 3:47pm.